

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 8, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SAULSBURY submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the petition of F. E. Hassler, administrator of the late F. R. Hassler, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and of the works for the construction of standard weights and measures, praying remuneration for losses and expenses incurred by his father, beg leave to report:

That the committee are unanimously of the opinion that the application of the petitioner is without merit, and ought to be refused, and they refer to the following letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated February 17, 1860, addressed to the chairman of this committee, which they make a part of their report, as fully sustaining them in the opinion thus expressed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 17, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a "petition of F. E. Hassler, administrator of the late F. R. Hassler, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and of the works for the construction of standards of weights and measures, praying remuneration for losses sustained by his father," and requesting to be furnished with any information which may be had in this department in relation to this case, and also with my own views in respect to the same.

Upon examination of the petition, it appears that Mr. Hassler grounds his claim upon the fact, alleged by him, that in 1832, and subsequent years, his father, as Superintendent of the Coast Survey and of weights and measures, received but \$3,000 per annum, while the present superintendent is now paid for the same duties \$6,000 per annum. The present superintendent is also superintendent of weights and measures, for which he receives no compensation, although Mr. Hassler would suggest that he receives \$6,000 for services as Superintendent of Coast Survey only. Mr. Hassler, it is understood, claims

the difference between \$3,000 and \$6,000 per annum, from 1832, the date at which the work on the survey was resumed.

It appears from a letter, dated March 27, 1837, during the incumbency of Mr. Woodbury as Secretary of the Treasury, that, in the act of March 3, 1837, the sum of \$60,000 was appropriated for the survey of the coast of the United States, "including arrears of compensation and expenses of the superintendent, estimating his compensation at \$3,000 per annum, and his expenses at the same rate, from August 2, 1832," &c., and under said act the President directed that F. R. Hassler, Superintendent of Coast Survey, be paid for arrears and compensation from the 2d of August, 1832, up to the 1st of April, 1837, at the rate of \$6,000 per annum, deducting from the aggregate amount the annual sum of \$4,500, heretofore paid him for services and expenses, and also deducting the additional allowance of \$500 during the period it had been paid to him, which was only for the year 1835, and fixed the compensation of Mr. Hassler, from and after the 1st of April, 1837, at \$6,000 per annum, for compensation and expenses for all his services as Superintendent of both the Survey and the weights and measures.

On the 3d of June, 1843, during the incumbency of Mr. Spencer, a letter was written organizing the survey according to a plan submitted by a board organized by the President, in which Mr. Hassler's compensation was stated at \$6,000 per annum—at which rate he was paid up to the day of his death.

It thus appearing that the compensation of Mr. Hassler from the date of the reorganization of the survey, was \$6,000 per annum, the same compensation as is now paid the present superintendent, the department is of opinion that there is no just ground for the allowance of the claim of Mr. Hassler.

The petition is herewith returned.

I am, very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. C. C. CLAY, JR.,

Chairman Committee on Commerce, U. S. Senate.